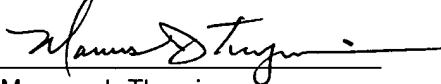


REMARKS

Please amend claims 1 and 5 as provided in the Claim Amendments Section of this Preliminary Response and add claims 15-27. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative below if any questions arise or if he may be of assistance to the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 1, 2004

By: 

Marcus J. Thymian

Reg. No. 43,954

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6709
312 935 2352
thymian@mbhb.com